

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2006

7:06 p.m.

ATTENDING

Gloria A. Aparicio
Patricia E. Cornish
Deborah L. Horan
Shirley Johnson
Resa Levy
Fauzia R. Najm
Martha Nguyen
Regina L. Oldak
Tedi S. Osias
Shelia Parker
Gary P. Smith
Yun Jung Yang

STAFF

Paula S. Rodgers
Tracy Stuger
Judith Vaughan-Prather
Shirley Thomas, Intern

ABSENT

Holly Fechner
Anne S. Kasper
Elizabeth Keyes

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....Horan

President Horan called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. She noted that an update on the Predatory Lending legislation would be discussed under "Unfinished Business." Upon the motion made by Commissioner Cornish, duly seconded by Commissioner Aparicio and unanimously passed, the agenda was approved with the addition.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Oldak, duly seconded by Commissioner Johnson and unanimously passed, the Minutes of March 22, 2006 were approved as submitted. Commissioner Johnson noted for the record that she also attended the March 19 Human Rights Hall of Fame induction ceremony that was reported on at the March 22 CFW meeting.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.....Horan

A. New Commissioner Recruitment

The selection committee made up of President Horan, Commissioners Cornish, Oldak, and Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather, have begun interviewing candidates interested in serving on the CFW. Eighteen applicants, representing a very diverse group of people, will be interviewed. The County Executive's staff told Ms. Vaughan-Prather that they were impressed with the number of people who apply to serve on the Commission for Women.

B. President's Advisory Council Meeting

Consensus was reached by the Commissioners to cancel the next President's Advisory Council Meeting planned for May 31. At its next meeting, the Executive Committee will discuss scheduling another Advisory Council meeting to take place this fall and ideas for a guest speaker.

C. Meetings with County Council Members

Several commissioners have met with members of the County Council. Councilmembers Perez, Leventhal, Silverman, and Floreen have been visited. A scheduled meeting with Councilmember Praisner was cancelled due to an emergency so the group met with her staff. Commissioners were invited by some councilmembers to submit a list of items for which the CFW could use additional funding and such a list was developed by the commissioners and submitted.

D. Equal Pay Date

The CFW's op-ed article "*Wage Gap Penalizes Families*" was published in the April 12, 2006 Gazette. Copies of the article were distributed to commissioners with the agenda packet.

E. Commissioner Training

The County Executive's office is again offering mandatory training on Ethics and the Open Meetings Act for staff liaisons and members of all boards, committees, and commissions, on May 8 at 7 p.m. Any member of CFW who has not previously attended should plan to attend.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Fairfax County Event

President Horan and Commissioner Aparicio attended the April 12 networking and lecture event for local commissions for women hosted by the Fairfax County CFW. President Horan encouraged those in attendance to join the National Association of Commissions for Women and she invited them to the MCCFW's

Chocolate, Checks and Champagne fundraiser. Both Ms. Horan and Ms. Aparicio felt that the commissioners seemed to be impressed by the work of MCCFW.

B. Minority/Female Business Affairs Manager

The County has hired its new Minority/Female Business Affairs Manager, Katie Knowlin. In November, the CFW wrote to the County Council president to inquire whether the legislation that created the new position would also assist women and minority business owners. The CFW suggested that the name of the program and the position should reflect that inclusiveness. In January, Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Romer notified CFW that the position description would be amended to specifically mention assistance to female and disabled-owned businesses as well as minority businesses. CFW may wish to invite Ms. Knowlin to a future Presidents Advisory Council meeting.

C. Attendance Policy

The CFW discussed the County's new attendance policy which states that if a member of a board, commission or committee misses more than three meetings in a 12-month period or three consecutive meetings, that constitutes that member's resignation. President Horan suggested that commissioners decide if a member has to be physically present at CFW meetings or whether a telephone conference call be considered as "attending."

After discussion, Commissioner Parker moved that CFW define attendance to mean a member's physical presence at a full CFW meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Oldak amended the motion to clarify that commissioners could still telephone in to a meeting to participate in discussions, but a commissioner doing so would still be considered absent from that meeting.

Following discussion, the motion passed by a 7 to 1 vote with 4 abstentions.

D. Predatory Lending

Commissioner Johnson reported that a hearing was held on April 25 on the predatory lending legislation. Approximately 33 persons testified; however, it was unclear what will happen with the bill. Ms. Johnson said that she submitted a letter on her own behalf. The Circuit Court will rule on the issue in July. No action is needed from CFW at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission on Aging

The Chair of the County's Commission on Aging proposed a meeting with a delegation of CFW members to discuss the issue of women and the aging population. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will schedule the meeting for the end of June. President Horan and Commissioner Cornish will be included as part of the CFW

delegation to attend.

V. STAFF REPORT

A. Displaced Homemaker (DH) Program

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and the Counseling Center's Program Manager, Elma Rambo recently met with Maryland State Treasurer Nancy Kopp and Maryland Health and Human Services Secretary Christopher McCabe. Treasurer Kopp requested the meeting in order to assess how Montgomery County women's needs are being met by the Displaced Homemaker (DH) regional centers in Prince George's County. In 2003, the contract to run the program at MCCFW was not renewed by the state and CFW was forced to end the DH program run by its Counseling and Career Center.

B. NACW Office

Staff has been busy keeping up with NACW memberships and updating the new NACW website. Intern Shirley Thomas has been wonderful in assisting with the work of NACW.

This is Ms. Thomas' last CFW meeting for the school year. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and the commissioners thanked her personally for all of the work she has done in the past month and said they will look forward to her return next school year.

C. Girls Computer Camp

The 2006 scholarship information packets have been sent out to Montgomery County middle school math and science teachers, guidance counselors and PTAs. Copies were distributed to commissioners during the meeting and Administrative Specialist Paula Rodgers will send each commissioner an electronic copy of the scholarship packet so that commissioners can help with outreach. Ms. Rodgers also posted the information on the CFW web site.

Discovery Communications will be donating \$5,000 to this year's program. Along with the budget funding for the computer camp program, CFW will be able to offer at least 26 scholarships this year.

C. Women's Law Day

The CFW Counseling and Career Center in partnership with the Montgomery County Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland is presenting a half-day program "Women's Law Day" on May 18, 2006 at the CFW office. Attendees will have an opportunity to get information about different legal issues and to sign up for a brief confidential, individual legal consultation with an attorney. The fee for the program is \$10 and registration is required.

D. Budget

The Council Health and Human Services Committee held its worksession on April 25 to discuss the CFW FY'07 budget. The committee recommended \$4,000 be put on the reconciliation list for the SWIM project. Commissioners submitted a “wish list” to Councilmembers; however, the committee did not add any of the items from the reconciliation list. The full Council hearing on the budget will be held on May 10 at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Office Building 7th floor hearing room.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policy and Legislation (PAL).....Stuger

Legislative Specialist Tracy Stuger gave the report in Commissioner Kasper’s absence. Copies of the revised legislative agenda were provided in the meeting packet. It was an extraordinary year—a lot of effort was put into this year’s session and CFW had some major victories and a few losses. President Horan thanked the PAL Committee and Commissioners Oldak and Kasper who worked very hard.

- Emergency Contraception (SB 297) failed by one vote.
- Senator Sharon Grosfeld – Commissioner Oldak noted that Senator Grosfeld has announced her intent to retire from the Senate. She will be sorely missed. Commissioner Cornish moved that a letter from the CFW be sent to Senator Grosfeld, thanking her for all of her support. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and unanimously passed.

B. Immigrant Women in Montgomery County (IWin)Yang

The two new brochures have been published in four languages and the media outreach campaign has begun.

- The Press Release should be issued on April 28.
- Distribution of the brochures has begun
- The Employment Guide for Domestic Workers has been reviewed by the Human Rights Commission, CASA of Maryland and a private labor attorney.
- There will be a final meeting on May 16 to present the results of the Domestic Workers survey to the County Council Health and Human Services Committee.
- The Chocolate, Checks and Champagne event will be Sunday, June 11 at President Horan’s home. “Save the Date” emails will be sent out this week. The committee is asking commissioners to donate chocolate treats for the event.

- C. Status of Women in Montgomery County (SWIM)Cornish

Commissioner Cornish reported that the committee is close to finalizing the Women in Education section of the report and completed some of the data on immigrant women. At the next SWIM meeting, the committee will review the section on women and the economy.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Women's Fair

Commissioner Levy reported that the April 1st Women's Fair was a big success. She will report on the actual number of attendees at the May meeting.

- B. The Interagency Fair Housing Committee is sponsoring an educational forum on "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know Regarding Fair Housing," to be held on April 27, from 1-4 p.m.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Additional Information provided in the meeting packet)

- A. Computer Mania Day will be May 6, 2006 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
- B. Commissioner Parker announced that the Kimberly Oliver, a teacher from Broad Acres Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland was named "National Teacher of the Year." Ms. Parker moved that CFW send a letter congratulating Ms. Oliver. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously passed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**